

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15, with the following amended paragraph:

The middle plate member 26 and the lower plate members 28 are positioned in close proximity to one another. The distance between the middle plate member 26 and the lower plate 28 can be, for example, about 0.125 to about 0.375 inch (about 3 to 9 mm). The total height of the apparatus 20, measured as the distance between the upper surface of the plate member 24 and the lower surface of the plate member 28, can be between about 3 to 6 inches (about 75 to 150 mm). The plate members 26 and 28 are separated by insulating material 30, such a ceramic material, an example of which can be alumina (Al_2O_3). The lower plate member ~~30~~ 28 can be grounded.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 8 and 9 with the following amended paragraph:

The upper and middle plates 24 and 26 and the outer screens 34 are in electric communication with one another as to form an electric circuit. To generate plasma, a radio-frequency (RF) signal can be directed to the upper 24 or middle plate 26. By way of example, a radio frequency source such as Cesar® 133, 300W unit, manufactured by Dressler of Germany can be used. Alternatively, instead of using the RF signal, plasma-can be generated using a microwave source, or any other suitable source known to those having ordinary skill in the art.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 8, with the following amended paragraph:

It is desirable that the plasma exist only within the space defined by cavities 32 but not outside this space. It is also desirable to avoid arcing to the stent surface and eliminate dielectric break down of the substrate film. In order to insure that the plasma will exist only within the space defined by cavities 32 (which includes the space inside the inner screens 40), as well as to avoid arcing to the stent surface and eliminate dielectric break down of the substrate film, the inner screens 40 are grounded by being in communication with the bottom plate 28. The inner screen 40 and the mandrel 38 are not seen in the central cavity of the

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apparatus shown by FIG. 4, but in fact the inner screen 40 and the mandrel 38 can also be used in this central cavity. The inner screen 40 and the mandrel ~~38~~for 38 for the central cavity are provided on the chamber 22, and the inner screen 40 and mandrel 38 are inserted in the central cavity when the apparatus of FIG. 4 is placed in the chamber 22.